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ARCHAEOLOGY IN 1919

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In archaeological, as in political and economic affairs, the world's return to "normalcy" is proving so slow as to be almost imperceptible. In the classical field, at least, 1919 saw rather less accomplished than any year since 1914. The reasons for this are not difficult to make out. The disturbed conditions and the high price of labor in Greece and in Italy make excavation much more difficult and expensive than in pre-war days; the foreign schools have not yet recovered from the effects of the war; and even the government organizations have been considerably affected by the loss of officials through death and other causes for which the war is responsible. The net result is that most of the work done in 1919 was carried on by the Greeks or the Italians themselves, not by foreigners, and even this was not on an extensive scale.

Much of the information which I have been able to gather about Greece is gleaned from the *Ἀρχαιολογικὸν Δελτίον*, a periodical issued by the Archaeological Section of the Greek Ministry of Public Instruction, of which I have seen three volumes (for 1915, 1916, and 1917) and the first half of a fourth. Of special interest to the seeker for recent news is the *Παράρτημα* which accompanies most of the volumes and in which are published notes on changes of personnel in the Archaeological Section, laws and royal decrees relating to archaeological affairs, lists of accessions to the national collections, reports of excavations (including the work of the foreign schools), reports of chance discoveries, and other matters under the supervision of the Archaeological Section. Thanks to this most welcome publication, I can supplement my accounts of work in Greece during the "war years" and even earlier in many ways.

Among the explorations which had entirely escaped my notice are those conducted by Mr. Kourouniotes in the island of Chios

in 1913, 1914, and 1915. At a spot called Latomi, not far from the town of Chios, some thirty tombs were cleared. The bodies had been deposited in terra-cotta sarcophagi, similar in form to the familiar group called Clazomenian, but quite undecorated. Very few offerings of any kind were found, but a few examples of Attic black-figured pottery seem to date the necropolis to the latter part of the sixth century. More important results were obtained at a site called Phana, just west of the southernmost point of the island, where remains of a Byzantine church built largely of ancient materials had long been thought to mark the site of the temple of Apollo mentioned by Strabo (xiv. 645). Excavation here brought to light considerable stretches of the boundary walls of the precinct and the foundations and some parts of the superstructure of the temple, largely re-used in Byzantine times. The temple was of the Ionic order and was founded as early as the sixth century. Among the small objects discovered were many fragments of Corinthian and Ionic wares (especially of the type sometimes called "Naucratic"); a hoard of fifty-nine silver didrachms and tetrobols of Chios, of fifth-century types; and an archaic statuette representing a warrior, made of silver, with traces of gilding.

At Phalerum, a group of eighty-seven graves, which were investigated by Mr. Pelekides in 1915, yielded many vases of well-known classes, including proto-Corinthian, Corinthian, and proto-Attic (especially of the type called Phaleron vases). More interesting was a single large grave in which were found the skeletons of eighteen men with iron collars about their necks and shackles on their legs and arms. Mr. Pelekides argues that these were criminals who had been punished by being fastened to a plank, as Mnesilochus is punished in the *Thesmophoriazousae* of Aristophanes; and he argues further that they were the men who were put to death on the information of Andocides for the mutilation of the Hermae in 415 B.C. Since no evidence as to the date of the grave was discovered, any theory of this sort seems impossible of definite proof.

Another excavation on the mainland of which I had not heard is that conducted by Mr. Versakes near Longa in Messenia. It has long been recognized that somewhere in this neighborhood was the

sanctuary of Apollo Korynthos which Pausanias (iv. 34. 7) describes as "about eighty stadia from Korone" and "beside the sea," but the exact location has been disputed. In 1914, the chance discovery of a slab of marble with a dedication to Apollo Korynthos fixed the site at a place called St. Andreas, a short distance west of Longa. Excavation here in 1915 brought to light the remains of no less than five different buildings, all badly ruined. The oldest temple is of very simple form, with traces of a single row of interior columns, and Mr. Versakes is probably right in assigning it to the eighth century. Of the other structures, one appears to have been a Doric temple of the sixth century, another an Ionic temple of the fourth. The early date of the sanctuary is attested by "Cyrenaic" vases and archaic bronzes. The finest of the bronzes represents a hoplite, whose armor includes protectors for the arms and the thighs, as well as the usual breastplate, greaves, and helmet. The inscriptions which were recovered not only confirm the identification of the sanctuary as that of Apollo, but also suggest that this Apollo was a warrior god, thus strengthening the suggestion of Bruckmann that his epithet was derived from *κόρυς*. In any case, the epithet is *Κόρυνθος*, as it stands in some of the manuscripts of Pausanias, not *Κόρυδος*, an emendation that has been favored by several editors; and "Crested Lark Apollo," therefore, is relegated to the list of "gods that never were."

In Crete the two Ephors, Mr. Hatzidakis and Mr. Xanthoudides, have constantly added to the treasures in the Museum of Candia during the war years by prompt inspection of chance finds and by excavation on a small scale at many different places. Among the latest scenes of their activity are Pyrgo and Malia.¹ The first of these is situated on the northern coast, some six miles east of Candia. Here workmen engaged in building a carriage road noticed in one of their cuttings a quantity of broken pottery. On examination it appeared that this came from an early burial cave which had collapsed because of quarrying in and near it. Removal of the fallen débris revealed a mass of pottery and a number of clay coffins, or larnakes, of a kind which is known from other sites to be characteristic of the Early Minoan period. Unlike the

¹ For information about these sites I am indebted to Mr. Richard Seager.

clay coffins of Late Minoan date, these are shallow, rounded on the ends, covered with flat covers, and undecorated. The examples from Pyrgo are proved to be of E.M.II date by the vases, which are said to constitute one of the finest collections of the pottery of this period that has yet been found. Especially important is a series of goblets on tall stems, gray or grayish black in color, decorated with linear incised patterns. These emphasize once more the rapid development of the potter's art in Crete. Most, if not all, of them were made on the wheel, and the best are remarkable for the fineness of the clay and the thinness of the walls. Of the settlement connected with this burial cave no traces were discovered, but nearby Mr. Xanthoudides found a large and well-preserved house of the L.M.I period, from the ruins of which many interesting objects were recovered. These include four huge double axes of bronze—the largest 1.20 meters in length—and between forty and fifty plaster “tables of offerings” of the sort that has been found before, round disks on three legs, consisting of a core of sun-dried clay, covered with a coat of fine plaster. In size they range from a few inches to nearly two feet in diameter. They were found stacked up in rows just as they were kept in storerooms, a fact which, combined with the presence of the double axes, suggests that the house was the residence of a priest or a dealer in religious objects.

At Malia, which is also on the northern coast of Crete, but to the east of Pyrgo, Mr. Hatzidakis has been clearing a large palace, very similar in many of its features to the palace of Knossos. Among the parts already uncovered are a large entrance portico, several long, narrow magazines, and what looks like a throne room. The latter has benches running around the walls on three of its sides and a niche in the middle of one wall, which might have contained a throne. The opposite side of the room has not yet been reached, so that it is impossible to tell whether the analogy to Knossos extends to the tank which is such a conspicuous feature of the throne room there. The small objects so far discovered have been disappointing, but only a small part of the palace has been uncovered.

At Corinth, although no regular campaign was undertaken by the American School in 1919, a considerable amount of work was done in and about the excavations on the initiative of the Red Cross Mission to Greece. Among the plans of the Mission was one for improving the sanitation of some Greek town, and Dr. Hill had no great difficulty in persuading the officials that Old Corinth offered them a fruitful field. Conditions in the modern village, never too good at any time, had become very bad indeed after a cloudburst in 1918. This flooded the excavated area, leaving a deposit of mud everywhere, undermined the main road along one side of the excavations, and broke or clogged the mains by which the village was supplied with water, so that for more than a year the villagers had been obliged to bring their water from outside. The officials of the Red Cross agreed to restore the water supply and to provide a drainage system which would prevent the recurrence of such a disaster. The village authorities contributed the labor of two hundred men for one day and all the money (200 drachmas) in the village treasury; the Greek Archaeological Society made a special grant of 8,000 drachmas; and the School undertook the cost of all work that was not strictly necessary from a sanitary point of view. The great Roman drain leading from Pirene, of which some 650 feet had been cleared in 1910, was completely renovated and connected with another ancient drain lower down on the slope, pipes were installed for drinking water, and retaining walls were built to support the road. There is, therefore, good reason to hope that the question of the village water-supply, which has so often involved the School in difficulties with the inhabitants of Old Corinth, is at last solved, and future excavation rendered less difficult.

The present year will probably see the foreign schools in Greece once more engaged in active exploration. The British School, indeed, has been at work during the spring of 1920 at Mycenae, and I shall hope to give a summary of their results in next year's report. The American School opened this fall with nine students. A new director of the French School, Mr. Pickard, and a new director of the Italian School, Professor Della Seta, were appointed in 1919,

but I have not seen any accounts of their activities or those of the other members of the two institutions.

In Italy* the government excavations at Pompeii, Ostia, and Veii made steady progress, and several interesting discoveries from other places have been reported.

At Pompeii, the Via dell'Abbondanza continues to be the center of activity. Among the recently cleared structures is the municipal police station, consisting of a single room, situated on a corner and separated from the main street by an open wooden grille. The exterior is decorated with paintings representing trophies, which appear to have been copied from those erected by Augustus in Rome in honor of Julius Caesar's victories over the northern barbarians. The grille has been reconstructed in wood from the impression which the original had left in the lava. In one of the two-story houses, flat, painted ceilings came to light and were carefully pieced together from many fragments. This house also had a terrace overlooking the garden. In another house it was possible to restore the door and hang it on the ancient hinges, and to rearrange the doorbell so that it actually rings. A large fulling establishment, with show-rooms on the street, was found to have a new type of atrium, with the opening in the center of a perfectly flat roof. Here, too, were found the remains of the meal which the workmen were eating at the time of the disaster. It is greatly to be hoped that a part, at least, of the recently uncovered section will soon be opened to the public.

For Veii, a report covering the results of the excavations since 1913 (in the *Notizie degli Scavi* for 1919, pp. 1-37) enables me to supplement my earlier notes in many respects. In the necropolis, 1,200 tombs have been opened, including *tombe a pozzo*, *tombe a fossa*, and *tombe a camera*. Many of them, especially the most conspicuous and richest, had been plundered in ancient or in modern times, but in spite of this, more than 6,000 objects of all kinds were recovered, including many specimens of arms and armor, jewelry and ornaments, and vases of silver, bronze, and clay. Among the

* These notes on work in Italy are, as usual, largely based on Dr. Ashby's letter, published in the "Literary Supplement" to the *London Times* for January 15 and January 22, 1920.

vases the commonest are Italo-geometric, Corinthian, and bucchero ware; Attic vases, curiously enough, are conspicuous by their absence.

Among the tombs, the most unusual is one in which the occupant, a man, was buried under seven shields, an arrangement that recalls the story of Tarpeia. He had on his head a crested helmet of bronze and on his breast a gold fibula; by his side was an iron sword, with the handle decorated with gold and amber; and under his feet were a horse's bit and the remains of a chariot. This tomb has been removed to the Museo di Villa Giulia in Rome.

On the site of the city itself, excavations on the plateau called the Piazza d'Armi or Citadella and generally believed to be the acropolis of ancient Veii revealed early Italic dwellings and, above these, houses of the eighth to the sixth centuries B.C., with orientalizing vases and other objects. Painted tiles and a terra-cotta statuette appear to prove the existence of a temple, such as is indicated on Canina's plan. But the most important discoveries were made at a spot called Portonaccio, a terrace on the northern side of the deep ravine which separates the site of Veii from the modern village of Isola Farnese. Near the bottom of the ravine numerous fragments of early votive offerings have been found from time to time, and this led Professor Giglioli, who, with Dr. Stephani, has had charge of the work in recent years, to investigate the terrace above. Trenches dug here soon brought to light a large enclosure, with the foundations of a temple of the sixth century. Running through the sacred precinct was a Roman road, and beside this, where they had evidently been carefully buried when the road was constructed, were found the archaic terra-cotta figures to which I have referred in earlier reports.¹ Professor Giglioli's account, with its excellent illustrations, shows that these fully justify the enthusiastic preliminary reports about them. The life-size Apollo, of which little except the arms has been lost, is certainly the finest example that we have of ancient sculpture in terra cotta.² Even the colors,

¹ Cf. *Classical Journal*, XIV, 256 f., and XV, 299.

² Two views of this figure are published in Mr. Curtis' article, "Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Rome and at Veii," *Art and Archaeology*, June, 1920, pp. 271-77. This article also contains an account, with illustrations, of the underground basilica discovered in Rome in 1917. Cf. *Classical Journal*, XIV, 253 f., and XV, 298 f.

reddish brown for the flesh, black for the hair and the eyebrows, white for the eyes (with a reddish iris and a black pupil), and violet for the border of the robe, are well preserved. The robe itself is left in the natural yellow of the clay. There are fragments of three other life-size figures. One represents a hind lying on her back, with her feet tied together and a human foot pressed against her belly, another is a remarkably preserved head of Hermes, identified by his winged cap. On the fragment with the hind, a lion's paw suggests that it was Heracles who stood above her, and following up this clue, Professor Giglioli argues that the complete group represented the contest of Apollo and Heracles over one of the sacred deer at Delphi, in the presence of Hermes and, probably, Artemis. The myth is not recorded in literature, but is found on the painted vases and on a bronze helmet. The uniform size of the figures makes it improbable that they were placed in the pediment of the temple, and they are too large to have served as acroteria, so that they should probably be regarded as a votive group, set up in or near the temple. Their date must be the last years of the sixth century. They thus give us an excellent idea of those ancient statues of clay which Pliny (*N.H.* xxxv. 158) praises for their skilful workmanship and durability and calls "more worthy of honor than gold, and at any rate more innocent," and to which Juvenal (xi. 116) refers with his

fictilis et nullo violatus Juppiter auro.

Moreover, as Professor Giglioli points out, these figures go far to confirm the tradition of an important school of workers in clay at Veii, which is implied in the statements that Tarquinius Priscus summoned an artist named Vulca from Veii to make the clay image of Jupiter for the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus at Rome (Pliny, *N.H.* xxxv. 157) and that the clay chariots which originally stood above the pediments of the temple were intrusted to "Etruscan workmen from Veii" (Plut. *Publicola*, 13).

On the Via Appia, further investigation below the basilica of San Sebastiano revealed the existence of three pagan tombs of later date than the columbaria discovered in 1916. All three are remarkable for their decoration. In one there are paintings both inside

and outside, with very well-preserved color. In the other two the decoration is in white stucco and is said to be notable not only for its almost perfect preservation, but also for the freedom and boldness of the design. Especially fine is one ceiling, which is covered with a naturalistic grapevine, carried up from the four corners of the vault. In another part of the church a long staircase has been discovered, descending to what *may* have been the temporary hiding place of the bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul.

At Albano, a considerable part of the amphitheater has been cleared, and some work has been done in the church of Santa Maria della Rotunda, which was originally a nymphaeum in the garden of a villa built by Domitian.

In the ruins of a Roman villa between Sorrento and Massa Lubrense—possibly the great villa of Pollius Felix mentioned by Statius (*Silvae* ii. 2)—a series of interesting reliefs of the first century after Christ has been found. One represents a sacrifice to Diana, another, the triumph of Bacchus, a third, a group of satyrs approaching an altar.

Finally, at Cyrene the temple which has long been called a temple of Apollo has been shown by an inscription to have been dedicated to Hadrian; in the market place a circular building has been found, which served as a meeting place for the priestesses of Hera; and further discoveries of sculpture are reported.